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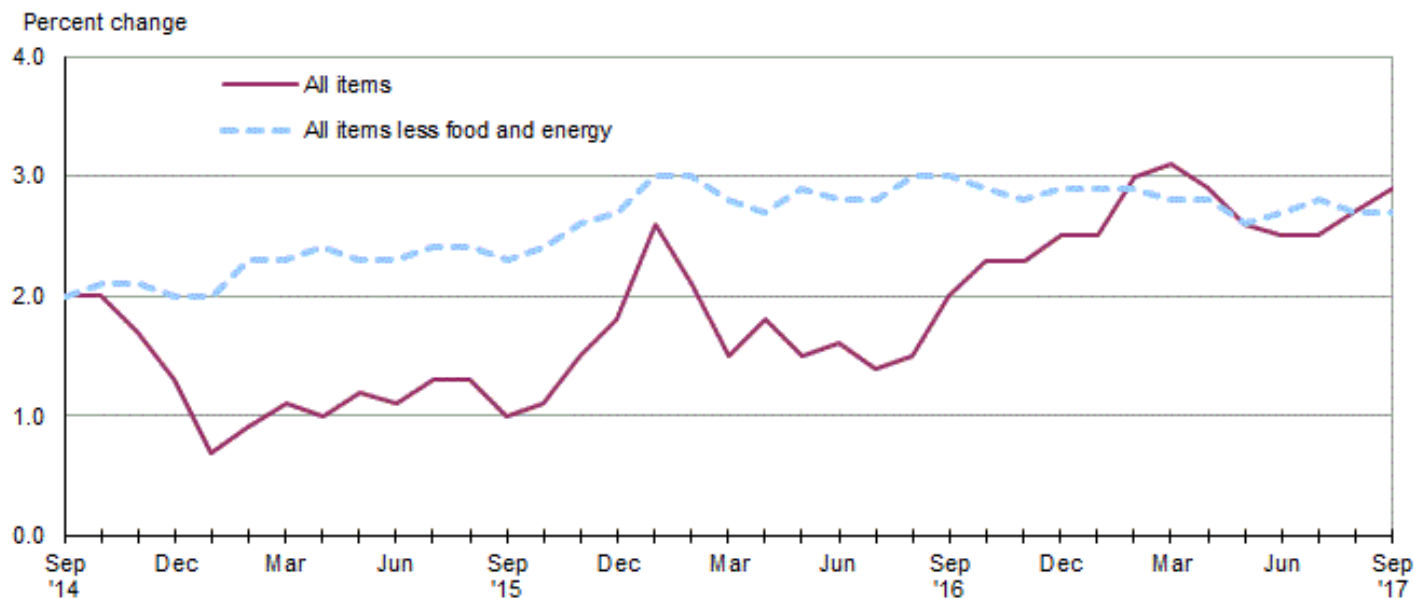
Consumer Price Index, West Region — September 2017

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 2.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.5 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The September increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 7.6 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, September 2014–September 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.4 percent for the month of September. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home increased 0.5 percent, and prices for food at home rose 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.9 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 0.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 3.2 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (6.3 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service decreased 1.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 7.6 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (14.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 1.8 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 3.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in September. Higher prices for apparel (3.0 percent) and medical care (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks (-1.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.7 percent) and other goods and services (3.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in used cars and trucks (-3.0 percent), apparel (-0.9 percent) and education and communication (-0.8 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0
March.....	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1
April.....	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9
May.....	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6
June.....	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5
August.....	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7
September.....	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9
October.....	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3		
November.....	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3		
December.....	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5		

The October 2017 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	254.708	255.282	256.504	2.9	0.7	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	411.722	412.649	414.625			
Food and beverages	255.163	255.140	256.241	1.9	0.4	0.4
Food	255.101	255.086	256.226	1.9	0.4	0.4
Food at home	246.141	245.591	246.581	0.8	0.2	0.4
Food away from home.....	266.577	267.324	268.673	3.5	0.8	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	252.643	252.515	253.075	1.8	0.2	0.2
Housing	277.110	278.205	278.592	4.0	0.5	0.1
Shelter	317.460	318.929	319.659	4.7	0.7	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	334.220	335.741	336.493	4.9	0.7	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	333.119	334.579	335.814	4.8	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	333.123	334.590	335.821	4.8	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	296.753	296.842	296.756	1.7	0.0	0.0
Household energy	256.581	256.389	255.958	0.6	-0.2	-0.2
Energy services(1)	259.008	258.781	258.133	0.5	-0.3	-0.3
Electricity(1).....	287.553	287.100	287.179	1.8	-0.1	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	207.298	207.598	205.169	-3.7	-1.0	-1.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.039	128.280	127.647	0.0	-0.3	-0.5
Apparel	116.565	117.120	120.642	-0.9	3.5	3.0
Transportation	203.452	203.809	206.646	4.6	1.6	1.4
Private transportation	197.903	198.976	201.848	5.2	2.0	1.4
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.182	100.064	99.340	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7
New vehicles	146.187	145.768	146.069	-0.2	-0.1	0.2
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	101.537	101.245	101.454	-0.1	-0.1	0.2
New cars(4).....	143.573	142.346	142.413	-1.4	-0.8	0.0
Used cars and trucks.....	134.446	134.351	132.279	-3.0	-1.6	-1.5
Motor fuel	217.894	222.750	236.781	14.3	8.7	6.3
Gasoline (all types).....	217.074	221.923	235.889	14.3	8.7	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	214.277	219.170	233.275	14.4	8.9	6.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	207.764	212.069	224.087	13.9	7.9	5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	214.785	218.984	231.464	13.4	7.8	5.7
Medical Care	479.489	480.581	482.243	1.8	0.6	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	373.433	374.209	374.072	3.8	0.2	0.0
Medical care services.....	512.688	513.883	516.198	1.3	0.7	0.5
Professional services	347.865	352.155	352.941	0.4	1.5	0.2
Recreation(3).....	112.620	112.431	112.813	0.2	0.2	0.3
Education and communication(3).....	135.565	135.778	136.162	-0.8	0.4	0.3
Other goods and services	427.393	425.773	425.862	3.8	-0.4	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	254.708	255.282	256.504	2.9	0.7	0.5
Commodities	179.962	180.155	181.816	2.0	1.0	0.9
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.725	142.993	144.800	2.1	1.5	1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	182.159	183.208	187.844	4.3	3.1	2.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	228.276	229.664	235.120	6.1	3.0	2.4
Durables	106.695	106.324	105.788	-0.9	-0.9	-0.5
Services.....	323.926	324.861	325.645	3.4	0.5	0.2
Rent of shelter(2).....	337.961	339.535	340.318	4.7	0.7	0.2
Transportation services	302.777	300.766	301.491	4.6	-0.4	0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
Other services	342.305	343.520	344.641	0.5	0.7	0.3
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	244.432	244.982	246.183	3.0	0.7	0.5
All items less food	254.819	255.484	256.720	3.1	0.7	0.5
All items less shelter.....	230.243	230.440	231.883	1.9	0.7	0.6
Commodities less food	146.801	147.061	148.849	2.1	1.4	1.2
Nondurables	218.589	219.150	222.191	3.0	1.6	1.4
Nondurables less food.....	187.323	188.311	192.748	4.1	2.9	2.4
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	230.300	231.550	236.564	5.7	2.7	2.2
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	342.371	342.567	343.442	1.7	0.3	0.3
Services less medical care services.....	310.737	311.652	312.335	3.6	0.5	0.2
Energy	237.666	240.324	248.061	7.6	4.4	3.2
All items less energy	258.070	258.492	259.236	2.6	0.5	0.3
All items less food and energy	259.362	259.860	260.539	2.7	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.360	139.079	139.425	-0.1	0.0	0.2
Energy commodities.....	222.186	227.055	241.218	14.1	8.6	6.2
Services less energy services	328.889	329.899	330.774	3.6	0.6	0.3

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.